



Text messaging Army's indispensable tool in war

Whale death revives calls for Subic park's closure

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



8th Cabinet exec resigns

'Unsolicited' PR plan upsets Afable

ANOTHER member of the Cabinet has resigned, bringing to eight the number of secretaries who have quit irrevocably as President Macapagal-Arroyo faces a political crisis fueled by allegations that she stole the election last year.



EX-SECRETARY Silvestre Afable Jr. will remain as chief government negotiator with the MILF.



Solons twit Gloria on makeover

Cha-cha won't solve RP woes, says CBCP head



Gap between Metro Manila, provinces works in favor of GMA

ANALYSIS

Opposition unfazed by pro-GMA rally



WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

PNP fears leftists in coalition

UNLIKE the middle class, it's not People Power-fatigue that has kept the police from intervening in the current political crisis, but their fear of leftists.





Impeachment trial puts senators in a dilemma

'I expect the worst'–Drilon

Police brace for protests during Sona

Pichay debunks rumors of Garcillano leaving RP

By Michael Lim Ubac and Nikko Dizon



GARCILLANO

If GMA resigns, Noli won't last long—Joma

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Anti-GMA protesters roughed up in Jeddah – Migrante

By Leila B. Salaverria

Whale death revives calls for Subic park's closure



Cruelty

Infections

Death probe

Exploratorium lacks ECC

Solons twit Gloria . . .

Lessons from Bible

Lessons for all

No way out



Gov't-MILF peace talks to resume in KL this month

THE PHILIPPINE government and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front will resume peace talks in Malaysia this month despite renewed fighting and a political crisis at home, a rebel spokesperson and a former Cabinet minister said yesterday.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the Cabinet crisis wouldn't hold up the peace process.

"People in government come and go and we're willing to talk to anybody sitting in Malacañang," Kabalu said, referring to the presidential palace.

Nine Cabinet ministers resigned July 8, including Teresita Deles, presidential adviser to the peace talks with the MILF, and said President Macapagal-Arroyo should step down because of suspicions that she rigged last year's presidential election.

No replacement for Deles has been announced.

Silvestre Afable, who resigned from his Cabinet post as Ms Arroyo's communications director last week, said Sunday he would continue in his role as chief government negotiator in the peace process.

He said the talks will likely resume before the end of July.

Sporadic gunbattles erupted between government troops and Abu Sayyaf and MILF guerrillas Thursday and Friday in the southern province of Maguindanao, killing at least one rebel, Kabalu said.

MILF guerrillas opened fire on two helicopters transporting troops to a mountainous area near Talayan town on Friday, wounding one of the soldiers and damaging the aircraft, Air Force spokesperson Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla said.

Padilla said the military had planned the offensive against the Abu Sayyaf and notified the MILF in advance, but the MILF still fired on the helicopter.

Kabalu acknowledged that MILF guerrillas fired at a chopper but said the attack and clashes were sparked when troops advanced on an MILF camp. The MILF would not block any military assault against Abu Sayyaf militants, who may be hiding near its camps, Kabalu said.

Military officials have accused local MILF commanders of providing sanctuary and training ground to the Abu Sayyaf and members of the Jemaah Islamiyah, a regional group linked to al-Qaida.

The MILF has been fighting for an independent Muslim homeland in the southern region of Mindanao for more than three decades. *AP*

GMA appoints Victorino as JBC member

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday appointed retired Justice Raoul V. Victorino of the Sandiganbayan as member of the Judicial and Bar Council representing the private sector.

Hailed as a no-backlog Justice of the Sandiganbayan, Justice Victorino who has the reputation for integrity and probity was chair of the National Ecumenical Consultative Committee and the National Council of Churches in the Philippines.

Multi-awarded as an active religious and civic leader, Justice Victorino occupied sensitive government positions in the executive and legislative branches of government. He was former commissioner of the Land Transportation Commission, Commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission and Secretary of the Commission on Appointments.

Victorino, a graduate of the UP College of Law, Class '57, also attended a special program for lawyers at Harvard University.

The JBC nominates to the president for appointment all the justices and judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the Sandiganbayan, the Court of Tax Appeals and judges of the RTC and the MTC.

It is chaired by the Chief Justice as ex-officio chair, the Secretary of Justice.

The regular members of JBC are appointed by the President for a term of four years.

EAPI special program on Vatican

THE EAST Asian Pastoral Institute (EAPI) is offering a special program on the historic achievements of Vatican II. The program, ongoing until December 2005, will review the council's work in the last 40 years and discuss how contemporary Church continues to renew itself in and for the global village of the Third Millennium. Speakers include Fr. Keith Pecklers SJ, Sr. Jan Gray RSM, Fr. Tom Rausch SJ, Fr. John Fuellenbach SVD, Fr. David Hollenbach SJ and Dr. Megan McKenna.

Anyone 28 years old and above with at least three years experience in any form of pastoral service may apply for any module/s (maximum of 5). Each module costs P3,000 which includes the course fee, instructional materials, lunch and two snacks. Interested parties are advised to apply early. For inquiries call The Secretariat of EAPI at (02) 4263901 or e-mail eapisec@admu.edu.ph.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, July 18, 2005
16th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 14:5-18
Gospel: Matthew 12:38-42

Some teachers of the Law and some Pharisees spoke up, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you." Jesus answered them, "An evil and unfaithful people want a sign, but no sign will be given them except the sign of the prophet Jonah. In the same way that Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of the monster fish, so will the Son of Man spend three days and three nights in the depths of the earth.

"At the judgment, the people of Nineveh will rise with this generation and condemn it, because they reformed their lives at the preaching of Jonah, and here there is greater than Jonah. At the judgment, the Queen of the South will stand up and condemn you. She came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and here there is greater than Solomon."

Commentary

Now the teachers of the law want a sign from Jesus and he refers to them as an evil and unfaithful people wanting signs. But there will be a sign: the sign of Jonah, swallowed by the whale and spit forth onto land to preach again. The Son of Man will be buried in the earth for three days and will come forth again to life. The Son of Man is a judgment figure from the Book of Daniel who will come in glory to judge the nations justly and when that day comes, the people of Nineveh will condemn this generation because it did not recognize the Son of Man and repent. Have we recognized the Son of Man, the Crucified One who stands in solidarity with the poor, the victimized, those destroyed by violent systems of injustice as the one who will judge us individually and as nations? Will Nineveh rise up and condemn us?

Claretian Publications Inc., [illegible] (Claretians in the Philippines)

Maroons surge; UE stuns La Salle

By Jasmine W. Payo

AN UNLIKELY hero turned up for the unlikely leaders.

Rookie guard Joel Dorado took charge as the University of the Philippines Maroons pummeled the National University Bulldogs, 81-59, yesterday to grab the solo lead in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Blue Eagle Gym in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Dorado, a 22-year-old graduate student, drilled in 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead the Maroons to their third straight triumph.

"Being on top is nice, but it's too early (in the tournament)," said coach Joe Lipa. "We were lucky to have [illegible] the first three games."

The Pumaren brothers figured in a tighter contest, as Dindo's upstart University of the East Warriors shocked Franz Pumaren's favored De La Salle Archers, 57-56.

Marcy Arellano hit the game-clinching triple that gave the Warriors a crucial 56-53 advantage with 1:28 left.

Although not many predicted that the Warriors would win and improve to a 2-1 record, coach Dindo Pumaren believed his young crew had a good fighting chance against the defending champions.

"We started out strong," he said. "We showed up ready to play and I saw it with the way they (Warriors) moved, their game face, it was there."

Freshman center Angelus Raymundo led the Warriors with 11 points and 10 rebounds, while Arellano, the 2004 Rookie of the Year, added 12 markers.

The Archers absorbed their second straight setback after absorbing a stunning 81-56 defeat at the hands of the UP Maroons last Thursday.

After Elmer Espiritu split his free throws to give the Warriors the slimmest of margins, 57-56, Joseph Yeo tried to salvage a win for the Archers but missed a triple in the dying seconds.

The Warriors got their up-tempo game going in the fourth quarter, mounting an 8-0 comeback to retake the lead, 46-45, after trailing at 38-45.

The Archers managed to pull even on two occasions—on triples by Oliver Uy and Ty Tang—before Arellano nailed the game-winning triple.

The Maroons opened the fourth period with a 9-0 blitz, capped by a Dorado triple, that turned their narrow 58-52 lead into a 67-52 advantage.



MICHAEL Gavino of the UP Maroons gets his left arm [illegible] on NU Bulldog as he battles for possession during the game yesterday. UP made every effort to flaunt its new strength in the rout of NU.

[illegible]

The scores

First Game

UP 81 — Dorado 20, [illegible]

NU 59 — [illegible]

Quarters: [illegible]

Second Game

UE 57 — [illegible]

DLSU 56 — [illegible]

Quarters: [illegible]

In-form Stags take on Altas

BACK IN GROOVE, San Sebastian Stags are hoping they've put their early loss far behind them.

"The winning attitude of the whole team is now there," said coach Turo Valenzona as the Stags vie for their third straight win against the University of Perpetual Help Altas in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at 4 p.m. today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The San Beda Lions, meanwhile, and the Jose Rizal U Heavy Bombers clash for their first victory at 2 p.m.

After a dismal 0-1 start, the Stags recovered with back-to-back wins against the St. Benilde Blazers and the Lions.

Workhorse [illegible] and lanky forward Red Vicente really got help from the Stags bench in their 77-74 win against San Beda.

"Our second stringers stepped up," said Valenzona.

The 2004 runners-up Altas are also aiming for a turnaround after posting their first win against the Letran Knights, 70-62.

"If you look at our bench, they're mostly rookies," said Perpetual coach Bai Cristobal.

Jasmine W. Payo

Controversial handcuffs finally distributed to cops

By Luige A. del Puerto

[illegible]

8th Cabinet exec resigns

Secretariat

Charts

Others, too

Text messaging Army's indispensable tool in war



DOMINGUEZ

Trinity of war

Communist toll

Job not complete

Pope Benedict XVI's plea faces severe test in RP

Priests reminded on straying from official path



Luneta rally elates Malacañang

Cha-cha won't solve …

Alignment of values

Even the Pope will fail

Not an apology

Times have changed

Lance foils conniving foes



HK cagers relegate FedEx Express to battle for 3rd



Try this Pinoy boxing website, it's a winner

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

Taiwanese cue masters on top of world

CLEAN LIVING



Marcelo R. Alejo

PCC anniversary derby today





The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Ziga

Fuel truck bomb attack kills 70 in Iraq

AL MUSAYIB, Iraq—The blitz of suicide bombings in Iraq showed no sign of abating Sunday after a bomber drove a tanker of liquified gas into a southern town killing at least 70 and wounding 95.

[illegible]



A US FEMALE soldier poses for a picture with an Iraqi female soldier who is covering her face with a scarf July 14 in Baghdad. Most Iraqi soldiers cover their faces afraid of being identified and targeted for killing by insurgents. AFP

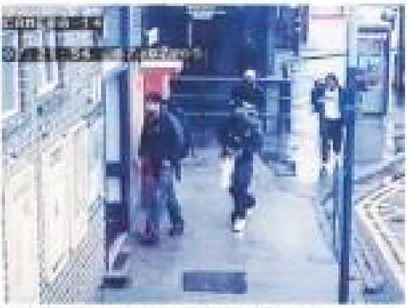


Photo shows bombers heading for London

Stem cell bank to open in South Korea in October

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION



A perpetual campaign

EDITORIAL

MALACAÑANG seems to have settled on a new strategy for dealing with the political crisis that is rooted in allegations of election fraud: Run last year's campaign all over again.

This is a grave error, because it mistakes mere motion for actual movement. It confuses the requirements of public relations with the requisites of governance. Not least, it hardens public perception that political survival is indeed President Macapagal-Arroyo's only objective, as the Hyatt 10 had warned.

It is a serious mistake, but one that's easy to understand. It worked the first time around. Last year, the make-work initiative gave a considerable number of out-of-work adults and out-of-school youth simple short-term but high-visibility jobs; the T-shirts they wore were walking advertisements for the President. PhilHealth cards were also issued to at least 5 million Filipinos during last year's campaign, with the President's face on the health insurance cards and the administration footing the bill for the first year's premiums. Both programs were controversial; the alleged diversion of the road-users' tax to finance the temporary employment program, in particular, was attacked as unconstitutional.

But they did what they were supposed to do; together with a tsunami of advertising and a series of effective town-hall open forums moderated by her running mate, then-Sen. Noli De Castro, the campaign's centerpiece programs helped the President raise her survey numbers and create an aura of inevitability.

Now the President proposes to do it all over again.

On the PhilHealth cards: "The Philippine national government gave the first year's premium with the hope that the local government will give the second year's premium for the indigents. But because these programs have become valuable for the local governments that are not able to provide the premium for another year, the national government will help to renew that insurance," she said. First estimate of total cost: P4 billion.

On the emergency employment program: "I have a budget of P2 billion for that. One part of it will go to the pavement [rehabilitation] which has to be done more professionally by the companies but the other part [involves] things that can be done manually. We hope that after it worked so well last year, it will also work this year to help reduce the unemployment problem," she said.

In making the announcement, Ms Arroyo also sought to soothe funding concerns. "With the increased tax collection from our phase one reforms [the increase in taxes on beer and cigarettes], we can now focus more money on things that will hopefully affect the poor more directly."

The two initiatives will certainly impact on the poor "more directly." But that doesn't necessarily mean that the administration should proceed with them, or even that the time is ripe for proceeding.

In the first place, it is premature to declare that "phase one" of the reform agenda has been completed. The expanded Value Added Tax law, to point only to the most prominent exception, continues to hang fire at the Supreme Court. To begin new spending programs before the new law is upheld is fiscally irresponsible.

Secondly, the proposed spending is itself suspect. The administration has the burden of explaining to the business community, the constituency that is watching the reform agenda most closely, that these billion-peso programs were already on the drawing boards before the political crisis struck. (That will take some doing; the PhilHealth second-year premiums fell due last February and March.) To spend new money without the support of the business community is therefore politically risky.

Thirdly, the twin programs will reinforce public perception about last year's elections: That the President may have bribed, stolen, cheated or forced her way to the winning column. Palace advisers may have recommended that the President take a leaf from the political handbook of her Georgetown classmate Bill Clinton. But a perpetual campaign will only rub an already impatient public the wrong way. The Arroyo administration needs a new controversy over warmed-over election gimmicks like a large hole in a very small head.

Happy days here again for solons, local officials

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

"WHY are there so many governors and mayors in Metro Manila?" somebody asked this question at a gathering last Saturday. Shouldn't they be in their municipalities and provinces attending to the needs of their constituents?

"They were summoned here to pledge support to President Macapagal-Arroyo," was the answer.

"Why are they so eager to go to Malacañang?" was the next question.

"Because of the pork that each of them gets."

Indeed, proceeds from the expanded VAT have not yet been collected but they are already being spent and distributed by Malacañang. And because of the impending impeachment complaint against GMA, happy days are here again for the congressmen and, soon, for the senators. Administration congressmen were seen trooping to the Palace to pledge support for GMA and when they went out, they were seen to be very happy.

Suddenly, the budget department has also been ordered to release pork barrel allocations to congressmen. Not so long ago, it was very hard to get fund releases for projects because the budget secretary had a hard time scraping up enough funds. Now that Emilia Boncodin is no longer the budget secretary, the department is very generous.

"If the stalemate over the presidency continues some more, the government will go bankrupt," somebody quipped.

Indeed, as some of the Hyatt 10 Cabinet members who resigned and asked GMA to do the same said, all the priorities of government are to ensure her political survival; governance takes the back seat.

* * *

Speaking of the Hyatt 10, Senate President Franklin Drilon told reporters that there were originally 17 Cabinet members who had decided to resign but seven balked at asking the President to step down. So they did not join the first 10. But they have submitted or are about to submit resignations.

This account of Drilon confirmed the statement of former presidential adviser on the peace process Teresita Deles that more resignations of Cabinet members will follow.

Drilon also denied that he went to Hong Kong to talk to Vice President Noli de Castro. "I went there to talk to the President," he said.

What did they talk about?

"Frankly, what reforms she has to do to save her administration. I told her, 'Mrs. President, the perception of the public is that your husband is involved in governance, not only in appointments. [illegible] This is not good. Do something about it because this erodes your ability to govern.'"

Drilon also said that the President is making too many compromises. "When you need to act in order to survive," he said, "you are liable to make too many compromises. Precisely, because of these compromises that you do in order to survive, that makes it difficult for you to govern. In fact, look at what is happening now. Former President Ramos is there. The perception is that he is the one running this government."

Drilon denied that he wanted to be vice president and executive secretary in a Noli de Castro presidency. "I have been there," he said (he had been in the Cabinet for eight years and has been through all the positions). "I am not interested in going back to the Cabinet. Mas maganda ang buhay namin dito sa Senado."

* * *

Tomorrow will be the moment of truth for the Equitable PCI Bank when its stockholders meet to elect its new board of directors. The fight for control of the bank between the Go family, founders of Equitable and the SSS-GSIS group is very bitter and has reached the courts, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Bangko Sentral, which finally disqualified Roberto R. Romulo, a Go ally, from being one of the independent directors of the bank.

Romulo blamed "the continuing effort of Bancorp One and its owners (the family of Henry Sy) to gain control of EPCIB." BDO officials have admitted that they are keen on merging with EPCIB, and that's where the trouble starts.

The EPCIB has an anti-competition provision in its by-laws that prevents the entry of BDO officials into its board. It is now a settled rule in the private sector that a private corporation can reject the nomination to its board of persons representing the interests of competitors. "BDO now wants to enter the board through the back door," with the help of the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System, said Romulo. The SSS and GSIS have a combined 40 percent of EPCIB shares (SSS 29 percent, GSIS 11 percent) which entitle them to occupy a sufficient number of board seats to control the bank. The Go family has only 20 percent, but it controls the bank's management.

However, the investment guidelines of our investment funds SSS and GSIS expressly prohibit them from taking over companies they invest in. Moreover, SSS and GSIS officials are just temporary trustees of their members, who are the true owners of the funds, Romulo said.

In December 2003, BDO tried to buy the SSS-GSIS shares but it was foiled. This triggered a Senate investigation because there was no bidding conducted for the sale of the shareholdings, contrary to the rules on equity divestment of government-owned assets.

Worse, the transaction would have meant a loss of P8.887 billion to SSS members. The SSS and GSIS acquired the EPCIB shares at P94 per share during the incumbency of President Estrada. The SSS agreed to sell its shares to BDO at only P45.3 per share during the incumbency of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The possibility of this deal being consummated will depend on the outcome of the EPCIB stockholders' meeting tomorrow.

Roads

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

WATCHING GMA last week tell the world with a straight face that it wasn't a matter of legitimacy, she had the votes, her enemies could only lead the country down the road to anarchy, I saw Marcos. That is one of the many things they have in common. Marcos could lie with conviction. It wasn't just that he was a good liar, it was that he actually believed his lie. [illegible] GMA is like that, too.

[illegible]

"This fight isn't about me," GMA told an audience of [illegible]. "It's about working within the rule of law and the virtue of democracy that we share with many countries, especially with the United States."

[illegible]

Marcos won a second term by unleashing guns, goons and gold to an unprecedented level. [illegible]

Reading the CBCP statement



SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

Eating our leaders

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

A circus of nitwits



KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

The secession card



THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THEY SAID

Distracted

Not enough to atone for nation's sorry state

LETTERS

Review nutrition policies

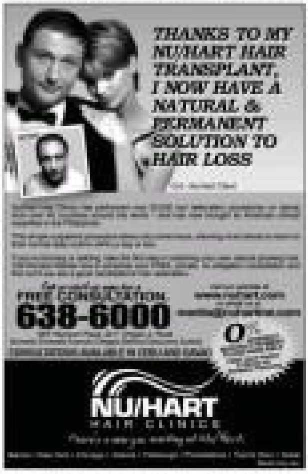
Clash of opinions in the Inquirer

Unsure

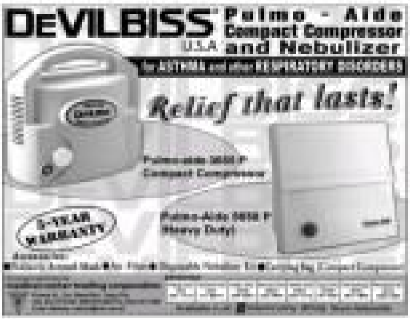
3 top Napocor execs dismissed

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The Ombudsman has ordered the dismissal of three officials of the National Power Corp. for dishonesty and misconduct they committed in 1999.

4 DENR execs face charges











Co-host of slain GenSan radioman foils slay try



GLOBE SOLUTIONS FOR NATIONAL SME WEEK

DTI holds SMED Week

Assess dangers in Quezon, Aurora, DENR urged

Deep soil cracks in Bohol village alarm officials



THOUSANDS of uprooted trees from the Sierra Madre helped kill people and destroy homes in Quezon and Aurora last year.

Still no 'super cities' 15 years after 1990 quake

By Vincent Cabreza and Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Where are the redeveloped cities that were supposed to rise from the devastation caused by the earthquake of July 16, 1990? [illegible]

[illegible]



BAGUIO artists sail [illegible] Friday to remember the people who died during the July 16, 1990, earthquake that hit Baguio City.

[illegible]

Roundup

War games cancelled

[illegible]

Organic smoke vs dengue

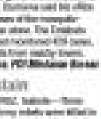


[illegible]

3 NPA rebels slain

[illegible]

Back to sea for turtle



[illegible]

Rice mill owner killed

[illegible]

NBI-Bicol exec killed

[illegible]

Scientists urge culture of endangered species



THE SEAHORSE is one of the many threatened species in Southeast Asia, according to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

Opposition unfazed by pro-GMA rally

Rallies won't solve problems

Students complain

'Desperate for support'

Gap between Metro Manila, provinces works in favor of GMA

Binay vs Atienza

Power balance

Impeachment

Lesson from Erap case

Makati City sets construction of center for youth in crime

Holistic program

Child-friendly, too

Water board to go after motels, condos

History quiz for disabled today



METRO
Text us your feedback
Editor [illegible]

Marikina cautions against fowl meat

By [illegible]

BE CAREFUL of what you buy.

Fearing that banned meat products from China might have already slipped into the markets, the Marikina City Veterinary Office told its residents to be vigilant when buying meat.

The warning came after the National Meat Inspection Services (NMIS) recently inspected and confiscated banned meat products from China, a memorandum signed by city veterinarian Manuel Carlos said.

The memorandum is being distributed to business establishments in the city, according to the city public information office.

Seized products

Among the products seized by the NMIS were hundreds of kilos of frozen Peking duck, young pigeon, frozen chicken, beef tendon, frozen suckling pig, pork ham and pork leg, the memorandum said.

The banned products were not only undocumented, but were also suspected of being contaminated with foot and mouth disease or even the bird flu, a deadly illness affecting birds which has also recently been found in humans.

Health officials said humans get infected with the deadly bird flu through contact with the saliva, nasal secretions and feces of infected birds.

No infection through meat

There is no evidence that humans can get infected by eating poultry meat and eggs. However, consumers are advised to thoroughly cook poultry.

The Department of Agriculture recently discovered three ducks in a small farm in Bulacan to be infected, but only with a "low-pathogen/bacteria" and not the deadly H5N1 strain, which has killed more than 50 people in Asia since an outbreak was reported in 2003.

To make sure the products they buy are safe, consumers should patronize only government-accredited markets.

Accredited slaughterhouses

The Marikina City government assured its residents that all meat products sold at city public markets also come from government-accredited slaughterhouses.

These pass through strict inspection by the City Veterinary Office.

Just as it has been conducting training on proper meat handling for meat handlers in public markets, the city government also announced it would soon be holding seminars for consumers.

CPD gets new name, albeit unofficially

DON'T be surprised if, suddenly, you fail to find the Central Police District or CPD.

In an effort to make the CPD more distinguishable among the five police districts in Metro Manila, the local police leadership decided to call it the Quezon City Police District or the QCPD.

Although the name change is not official, police officers have begun referring to the district as QCPD since the beginning of July, said its director Chief Supt. [illegible] Jr.

"It's a better name because it gives the district a more distinct identity," he said, adding that people at times get confused because of the old name.

Old name painted over

The billboard near the district headquarters at Camp Karingal has been painted over to show the new name.

"The change in name is only logical since CPD covers only Quezon City," [illegible] said.

He said the Western Police District was also about to change its name to the Manila Police District.

Only Quezon City and Manila have police districts limited to themselves.

The rest of the districts cover a cluster of cities or towns, such as the Northern Police District, which encompasses Caloocan City, Malabon City, Navotas and Valenzuela City.

Metro police chief Director Vidal Querol is expected to make the name change official, [illegible] said. *[illegible]*

BUSINESS

Ayalas to bid for 67% stake in PNB

THE AYALAS' Bank of the Philippine Islands, the country's second biggest bank, will challenge tobacco magnate Lucio Tan over the right to buy a controlling stake in Philippine National Bank.

Go family faces uphill battle in EPCIB brawl

SPECIAL REPORT

Survival strategy

WHAT'S INSIDE

Politics and market movements

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito



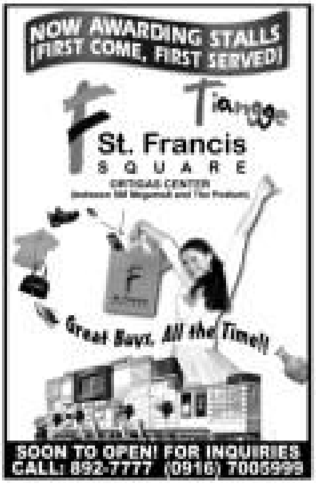
Overrating politics

External drivers

Poor political capital

Feedback

12 names up for hotly contested EPCIB seats





Go family faces uphill battle in EPCIB brawl

A checkered past

Organized campaign?



Audi blitzkrieg

[illegible]

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Silverio sandwich

[illegible]

Money-go-round

[illegible]

Heard through the grapevine

[illegible]

RP proud in Saipan

[illegible]

Ayalas

[illegible]



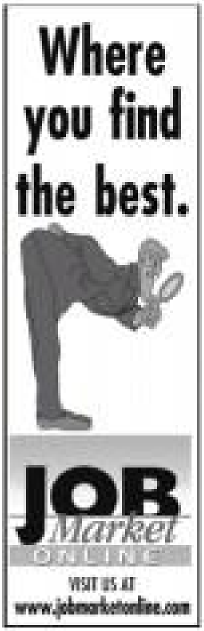
[illegible]

BSP reports fund outflow of $130M in 1week

By Doris C. Dumlao

[illegible]





Morgan Stanley sees slower 4% GDP growth for RP

By Michelle V. Remo

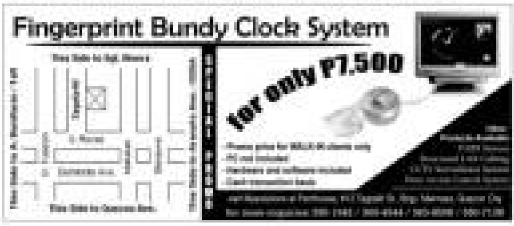
INVESTMENT bank Morgan Stanley expects the Philippines' economic growth to slow down to only 4 percent this year, largely due to weaker exports.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Please be notified that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Petron Corporation will be held on July 25, 2005, Monday at 9:00 a.m. at the Fiesta Pavilion of Manila Hotel, One Rizal Park, Manila, with the following agenda:

(1) Call to Order
(2) Report on Attendance and Quorum
(3) Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Annual Stockholders' Meeting
(4) Management Report and Submission of Financial Statements to Stockholders for the year 2004
(5) Ratification of all acts of the Board of Directors and Management during the year 2004
(6) Appointment of Independent Auditor
(7) Election of the Board of Directors for the ensuing term
(8) Such other business as may properly come before it.

(Sgd.) Luis A. Maglaya
Corporate Secretary



Another "power-packed" promo from ACER unfolds this July



Q2 CORPORATE EARNINGS

Consolidation seen to continue

The Ayala Avenue rallies

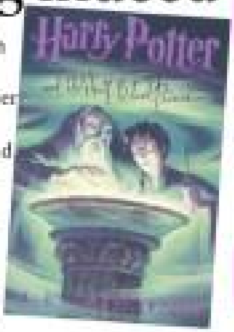
QUESTIONS OF POLICIES



LIFESTYLE

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ■ TUESDAY FITNESS ■ WEDNESDAY 2BU ■ THURSDAY FOOD ■ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

New Harry Potter book is royal reading indeed



Humor, intrigue, death and terrific twists transfigure 'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince' into a must-read

"Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince"
By J.K. Rowling
Illustrations by Mary GrandPré
Arthur A. Levine Books, New York, 2005, 652 pages

By Ruel S. De Vera

[illegible]

Philippine ivory craft is part of world art history

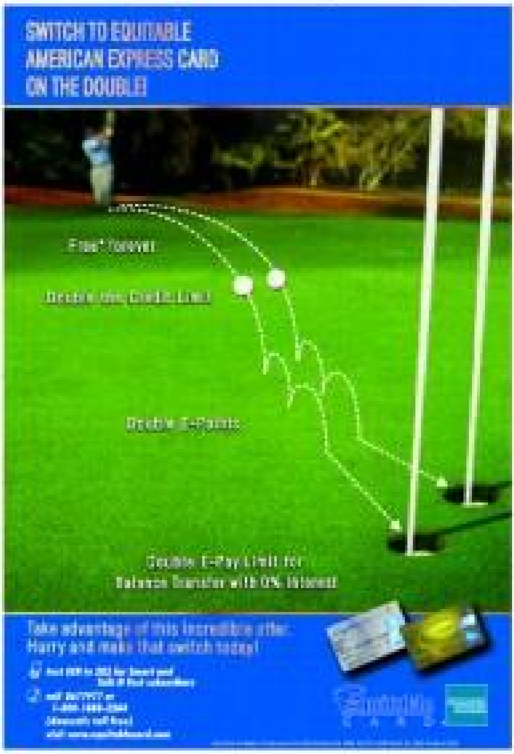
PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

Evolution of forms

Globalization







Feast of children's books





UP Concert Chorus

Musical concert kicks off investiture of UP president

UST holds media lunch

New Harry Potter book is royal reading indeed

Hardheaded hero

Amazingly useful

J.K. Rowling is PowerBooks' Author of the Month

WITH the much anticipated release of Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince this July, PowerBooks Specialty Store has chosen J.K. Rowling, author of the phenomenally successful Harry Potter series, to be its Author of the Month.



J.K. ROWLING

Auditions for 'Man of La Mancha'

REPERTORY Philippines is holding auditions for its off-season musical offering this November—"Man of La Mancha" (a musical drama by Dale Wasserman, music by Mitch Leigh, lyrics by Joe Darion), on July 21.